In re Patent Application of:
ROY ET AL.
Serial No. **10/777,731**
Filed: **FEBRUARY 12, 2004**

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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. Independent Claims 1, 12, 18, 24, and 28 have been amended as per the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Support for these amendments may be found in paragraph 117 of the originally filed specification. In view of the amendments and arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all claims are patentable.

I. The Amended Claims

Amended independent Claim 1 recites a communications system comprising a plurality of data storage devices, each using at least one of a plurality of operating protocols, at least one data storage device communicating using multiple operating protocols. A plurality of mobile wireless communications devices are for accessing said at least one data storage device, each mobile wireless communications device communicating using at least one of the plurality of operating protocols. The communications system also includes a protocol interface device comprising a front-end proxy module for communicating with said plurality of mobile wireless communications devices using respective operating protocols.

The protocol interface device also includes a protocol engine module for communicating with said plurality of data storage devices using respective operating protocols determining

whether a given data storage device of said plurality thereof communicates using multiple operating protocols. The protocol engine module selects a single supported operating protocol for communicating with the given data storage device of said plurality thereof if only a single operating protocol is supported thereby, and selects a desired operating protocol for communicating with the given data storage device of the plurality thereof from the multiple operating protocols if multiple operating protocols are supported thereby.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to the protocol interface device of Claim 1. Amended independent Claim 18 is directed to a protocol interface device for interfacing a plurality of communications devices with a plurality of data storage devices. Amended independent Claim 24 is directed to a method counterpart to amended independent Claim 12, and amended independent Claim 28 is directed to a computer readable medium counterpart to amended Claim 24.

II. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 18, 24 and 28 over Poor et al. Poor et al. discloses an intermediate server or system having knowledge of application program protocols used by the application programs on a user's wireless device. The intermediate server receives information communicated from the device via a transport level protocol. This information is subsequently transmitted by the intermediate server to a remote server or system that services the application or program

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in use by that person, in accordance with the appropriate single
communication protocol used by that remote server or system.

The independent claims have been amended, however,
according to the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Amended
independent Claim 1 recites that the protocol engine module is
also for determining whether a given data storage device of the
plurality thereof communicates using multiple operating
protocols. Poor et al. fails to disclose this feature. Poor et
al. discloses different servers, each communicating using its own
different protocol and a server configuration file containing
database entries for each server that list which protocol to use
with that server. An intermediate server of Poor et al. selects
which protocol to use for communications with a server and bases
this selection upon the server configuration file. Since each
server of Poor et al. uses its own different protocol, the
intermediate server does not determine whether a server
communicates using multiple operating protocols. Furthermore, it
should be noted that Poor et al. does not teach or fairly suggest
that its server configuration file may contain multiple protocol
entries for each server.

Finally, amended independent Claim 1 recites that the
protocol engine module selects a desired operating protocol for
communicating with the given data storage device of the plurality
thereof from the multiple operating protocols if multiple
operating protocols are supported thereby. Poor et al. also fails
to disclose this feature. Since the server configuration file of
Poor et al. contains one single entry for each server containing

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the protocol to be used with that server, the intermediate server cannot select which of multiple operating protocols supported by a server to use to communicate with that server.
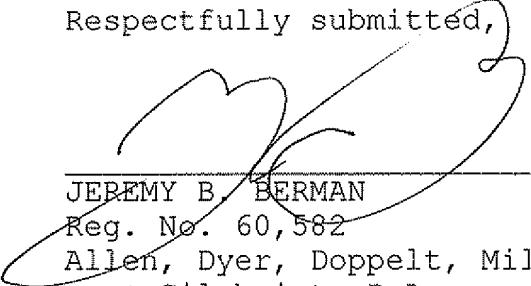
Accordingly, Poor et al. fails to disclose all the features recited by amended independent Claim 1. Amended independent Claims 12, 18, 24 and 28 contain similar recitations to amended independent Claim 1 and are therefore patentable as well. The dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing details, are likewise patentable and require no further discussion herein.

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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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